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Attorney for Claimants
Michael and Agnes Siedentopf and
Evangeline and Arnold Constantino

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

In re

Case No. 19-30088-DM

PG&E Corporation,

Chapter 11 Lead Case, Jointly Administered

and

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY,

Debtors.

- Affects PG&E Corporation
- Affects Pacific Gas and Electric Company
- Affects both Debtors

**AMENDED MOTION PURSUANT TO
FED. R. BANKR. PROC. 7015 AND 7017
TO JOIN REAL PARTY IN INTEREST
FOR CLAIM PREVIOUSLY FILED; OR, IN
THE ALTERNATIVE, TO ENLARGE
TIME TO FILE PROOF OF CLAIM
PURSUANT TO FED. R. BANKR. PROC.
9006(b)(1)**

***All paper shall be filed in the Lead Case, No.
19-20088-DM**

Date: January 27, 2021
Time: 10:00 a.m. (Pacific Time)
Place: Telephonic/Video Appearances Only
United States Bankruptcy Court
Courtroom 17,
450 Golden Gate Ave., 16th Floor
San Francisco, CA
Judge: Hon. Dennis Montali

Objection Deadline: January 20, 2021

1

BACKGROUND

2 Pursuant to Rules 7015 and 7017 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure,
3 which incorporate Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 15 and 17, by this motion ("Motion"),
4 Michael and Agnes Siedentopf ("Movants") move to add Evangeline Constantino and Arnold
5 Constantino as additional claimants and family members of Mr. and Mrs. Siedentopf. Mr.
6 Siedentopf previously filed Proof of Claim, Claim Number 55665 and Amended Claim
7 Number 89811, attached to the Declaration of Drew M. Widders as Exhibit 1. As a result of
8 counsel's mistaken omission, Mr. Siedentopf's in-laws that fled with him and his wife from
9 the fire were not included in the Proof of Claim. They lived in the same household at the
10 time of the fire and should have been included in the Proof of Claim.

11 This Motion is based upon the points and authorities set forth herein and the
12 concurrently filed Notice of Hearing and Declaration of Drew M. Widders in support of the
13 Motion, in addition to any evidence or oral argument presented at the time of any hearing on
14 this matter. In support thereof, the Movants, by and through their undersigned counsel,
15 respectfully represent as follows:

16

BASIS FOR RELIEF REQUESTED

17 The general bar date in these cases was October 21, 2019 ("Original Bar Date"). The
18 process for submission of timely claims was continued after the Original Bar Date. Pursuant
19 to the Stipulation Between Debtors and Official Committee of Tort Claimants to Extend Bar
20 Date for Fire Claimants and for Appointment of Claims Representative (Dkt No. 4651), the
21 Original Bar Date was extended for the benefit of Unfiled Fire Claimants to December 31,
22 2019 at 5:00 p.m. (Prevailing Pacific Time). The Debtors' Chapter 11 plan ("Plan") was
23 confirmed by court order on June 20, 2020, and pursuant to the Notice of Effective Date, the
24 Plan became effective as of July 1, 2020.

25

This Motion concerns the claims of Evangeline and Arnold Constantino who were
erroneously not included as a claimants on Mr. Seiedentopf's original claim form at the time
Mr. Widders originally submitted the claim for damages and losses that resulted from the
Camp Fire.

Under Rules 7015 and 7017 of Federal Bankruptcy Procedure (which incorporate Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 15(c) and 17(a)(3)) because there is a lack of bad faith on the part of Movants and their counsel in failing to include Mr. and Mrs. Constantino as part of Mr. Siedentopf's original claim, it is respectfully requested the Court allow the addition of Mr. and Mrs. Constantino to the original claim.

In the alternative, to the extent that an extension of the bar date is required to effectuate the purpose of Rules 7015 and 7017, it is respectfully requested the mistake should be allowed to be corrected by permitting the late filing of the amended proof under Bankruptcy Rule 9006(b).

Application of the so-called Pioneer factors shows that Movants' late filing is the result of excusable neglect and therefore permissible under Rule 9006(b)(1). In permitting a creditor's late filing under Bankruptcy Rule 9006(b)(1), the Supreme Court explained that Congress, by empowering the courts to accept late filings where the failure to act was the result of excusable neglect, plainly contemplated that courts would be permitted, where appropriate, to accept late filings caused by inadvertence, mistake or carelessness, as well as by intervening circumstances beyond the party's control. *Pioneer Inv. Servs. Co. v. Brunswick Associates L.P.*, (1993) 507 U.S. 380 at 388. The Supreme Court further clarified that whether a claimant's neglect of a deadline is excusable is an equitable determination, taking account of all the relevant circumstances surrounding the claimant's omission. See *id.* at 395. These equitable considerations include (1) The danger of prejudice to the debtor, (2) The length of the delay and its potential impact on judicial proceedings, (3) The reason for the delay, including whether it was within the reasonable control of the movant, and (4) whether the movant acted in good faith.

As to the first such factor, Movants' late filing will cause no prejudice to Debtors, inasmuch as the Plan has been confirmed, the associated Fire Victim Trust funded, and so the inclusion of Movants' claim in the pool of fire victim claims will have no impact at all on the Debtors or the bankruptcy estates.

As to the second Pioneer factor, Movants' delay in filing his claim and any resultant

1 impact on these proceedings are exceedingly modest and immaterial for the same reasons
2 that Debtors will not be prejudiced.

3 As to the third Pioneer factor, the reason for the delay and whether it was in Movants'
4 reasonable control, claimant's counsel has no excuse as to why Mrs. and Mrs. Constantino
5 were not included in the claim. Claimant's counsel assigned an attorney with significant
6 experience in handling personal injury claims to contact claimants about their losses and
7 other family members impacted by the Camp Fire and draft the claim forms on behalf of the
8 victims. Unfortunately, during the process the attorney inadvertently left out and/or did not
9 discover these claimants that had claims that should have been included with the related
10 family members. Claimant's counsel did not uncover these omissions until our office began
11 preparing the transmission of supporting documents and the Claims Questionnaire to the
12 Fire Victim's Trust.

13 As to the final factor, Movants are acting in good faith in filing the claim as they are
14 victim's of the Camp Fire that but for the mistake, they would have been included in claims
15 already timely filed in the Court. Based on the above, Claimants' counsel request the claims
16 be allowed due to his own neglect as opposed to that of the victim of the Camp Fire.

17 CONCLUSION

18 For the reasons set forth above, Movants respectfully request that this Court enter an
19 order pursuant to Bankruptcy Rules 7015, 7017, and 9006(b)(l) as follows:

- 20 1. Granting this Motion;
21 2. Directing that Evangeline Constantino and Arnold Constantino be added as
22 Claimants to Exhibit 1, the Proof of Claim, Claim Number 89811; and
23 4. Granting such other or further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

24 Dated: December 15, 2020

25 WILCOXEN CALLAHAM, LLP

26 By: /s/ Drew M. Widders
27 DREW M. WIDDERS
Attorneys for Claimants